

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An analog to digital converter, comprising:

a plurality of comparators, each comparator for comparing an input electrical signal with a respective, pre-selected reference electrical signal;

an encoder coupled to the comparators to receive a detection signal from each comparator indicative of the input signal; and

a plurality of reference circuits, each reference circuit coupled to a respective one of the plurality of comparators to supply the respective reference electrical signal to the respective comparator.

2. (currently amended) The analog to digital converter of claim 1, wherein each comparator comprises:

a comparator for comparing a voltage of the input electrical signal with a voltage of the respective reference electrical signal, the respective reference electrical signal having a pre-selected voltage.

3. (currently amended) The analog to digital converter of claim 2, wherein the encoder comprises:

an encoder to receive [[a]] the detection signal from each comparator indicative of an input signal voltage.

4. (original) The analog to digital converter of claim 3, wherein each reference circuit comprises:

an output transistor to provide the reference electrical signal;

a current source coupled between an emitter of the output transistor and ground;

a reference resistor coupled to a base of the output transistor to set an operation current of the output transistor;

a control transistor coupled to the reference resistor in parallel with the output transistor to allow current flow through the reference resistor; and

a current mirror coupled in parallel with the reference resistor and control transistor to control the current flowing through the reference resistor.

5. (original) The analog to digital converter of claim 4, wherein the current mirror comprises:

a resistor coupled in series with a transistor.

6. (original) The analog to digital converter of claim 3, wherein each reference circuit comprises:

an emitter follower circuit.

7. (original) The analog to digital converter of claim 4, wherein the current mirror comprises:

a trans-admittance amplifier coupled in series with a transistor.

8. (original) The analog to digital converter of claim 3, wherein each reference circuit comprises:

an output transistor to provide the reference electrical signal;

a current source coupled between an emitter of the output transistor and ground;

a reference resistor coupled to a base of the output transistor to set an operation current of the output transistor;

a control transistor coupled to the reference resistor in parallel with the output transistor to allow current flow through the reference resistor; and

a trans-admittance amplifier coupled to the base of the control transistor to control the current flowing through the reference resistor.

9. (currently amended) A method for digitizing an analog signal, comprising:

generating a plurality of predetermined reference electrical signals;

supplying each reference electrical signal to a respective one of a plurality of comparators; ~~and~~

supplying an input electrical signal to each one of the comparators to compare the input electrical signal with the respective reference electrical signal and to provide a detection signal indicative of the input electrical signal; and

providing each detection signal from each comparator to an encoder arranged to output a signal indicative of a magnitude of the input electrical signal.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein generating the plurality of predetermined reference electrical signals comprises:

generating each reference electrical signal at a preselected voltage.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein supplying the input electrical signal to each one of the comparators comprises:

supplying the input electrical signal to each one of the comparators to provide a detection signal indicative of an input

signal voltage.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein generating each predetermined reference electrical signal comprises:

applying a supply voltage to each of a plurality of emitter follower circuits to generate each predetermined reference electrical signal at the respective preselected voltage.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein generating each predetermined reference electrical signal comprises:

applying [[a]] the supply voltage to each of a plurality of reference circuits, each reference circuit comprising an output transistor to provide the reference electrical signal, a current source coupled between an emitter of the output transistor and ground, a reference resistor coupled to ~~the~~ a base of the output transistor to set an operation current of the output transistor, a control transistor coupled to the reference resistor in parallel with the output transistor to allow current flow through the reference resistor, and a current mirror coupled in parallel with the reference resistor and control transistor to control the current through the reference resistor, the current mirror comprising a trans-admittance amplifier coupled in series with a transistor; and

applying a preselected control current to the trans-admittance amplifier to control the current flowing through the

reference resistor to cause the output transistor to provide the reference electrical signal at the respective preselected voltage.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein generating each predetermined reference electrical signal comprises:

applying [[a]] the supply voltage to each of a plurality of reference circuits, each reference circuit comprising an output transistor to provide the reference electrical signal, a current source coupled between an emitter of the output transistor and ground, a reference resistor coupled to a base of the output transistor to set an operation current of the output transistor, a control transistor coupled to the reference resistor in parallel with the output transistor to allow current flow through the reference resistor, and a trans-admittance amplifier coupled to the base of the control transistor to control the current through the reference resistor; and

applying a preselected control current to the trans-admittance amplifier to control the current flowing through the reference resistor to cause the output transistor to provide the reference electrical signal at the respective preselected voltage.